MODULE 4

Designing and Using Test Projects & Marking Schemes

Empowering VET Teachers with Skills Competition Methods for Effective Assessment and Learning







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Module 4. Designing and Using Test Projects & Marking Schemes

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Orientation to the WorldSkills Assessment Ecosystem

Objectives:

- Understand the educational value of WorldSkills assessment tools
- Recognize the link between the WSOS, Test Project, and Marking Scheme

Content:

- Purpose of Test Projects & Marking Schemes
- The WorldSkills Assessment Life Cycle
- Why these tools matter for all VET students—not just competitors
- * Activity: Compare national exam practices to WS assessment principles
- Resource: WS Assessment Life Cycle diagram

Why Are We Talking About WorldSkills?

- WorldSkills is more than a competition it's a global benchmark of vocational excellence
- Tools used in WS (Test Projects, Marking Schemes, Standards) are:
 - 冷 Practical
 - Competency-based
 - Aligned to industry needs
- These tools can enhance day-to-day VET teaching and learning

Test Project = Assessment Vehicle

- A Test Project is a task or set of tasks that simulate real workplace scenarios
- Purpose: to measure how well students perform compared to international standards
- Not about rote knowledge, but about doing: skills, decisions, and execution
- Think of it as: "What would a top-performing young professional do in this situation?"

Marking Scheme = Feedback & Scoring Tool

- A Marking Scheme (MS) defines how performance is assessed
- Based on:
 - Sub-criteria and aspects
 - Measurement (objective) & Judgement (subjective with standards)
- It ensures fairness, consistency, and transparency
- Without an MS, a task is just an activity. With an MS, it's a learning and assessment tool.

The Triangle of Excellence

WSOS (Standard) → Test Project (Task) → Marking Scheme (Assessment)

Each Test Project and Marking Scheme must align with the **WorldSkills Occupational Standards** (WSOS) or with the national standard, which define:

- ★ Skills
- Knowledge
- **Behaviours**
- This triangle ensures: relevance, rigour, and reliability

WorldSkills Assessment Life-Cycle

- Six key phases in the WS assessment process:
- Referencing: using WSOS (or the national standard) to define what's assessed
- 2. Design: selecting suitable tasks & methods
- 3. Development: building the Test Project & Marking Scheme
- 4. Preparation: logistics, tools, trials
- 5. Implementation: actual assessment during competition/training
- 6. Review: data analysis, improvement, and feedback

Who Benefits from These Tools?

Not only competitors!

- ✓ VET teachers can use TPs/MS in:
 - Classroom projects
 - Practical exams
 - Self/peer assessments
- ✓ Students benefit from:
 - Industry-relevant, realistic learning
 - Clear expectations and standards
 - Formative feedback aligned with workplace demands

WorldSkills Assessment Principles

Each assessment must be:

- ✓ **Valid** measures what it should
- ✓ Reliable consistent, repeatable
- √ Fair unbiased, inclusive
- ✓ Transparent clear process & expectations
- ✓ Authentic based on real work tasks

How This Helps You as a VET Teacher

Adds structure and **clarity** to performance assessment

- Encourages competency-based teaching
- Gives access to ready-made professional materials
- Fosters curiosity and confidence in students
- Creates a bridge between school and industry

Quick Check: Discussion or Reflection

"In your current teaching, what are some challenges you face when assessing practical skills?"

- Discuss in pairs or small groups
- Link your reflections to the WS approach you've seen today

Summary

Not only competitors!

- ✓ Test Projects = authentic tasks
- ✓ Marking Schemes = structured assessment & feedback
- ▼ Together, they align with WSOS and support powerful, practice-based learning
- Next up: **How to Design a Test Project**

Let's build one from scratch!

Building Blocks of a Test Project

Objectives:

- Learn how to design Test Projects aligned with the WSOS
- Understand how to define skills-based challenges that assess both hard and soft skills

Content:

- Types of Test Projects: full, modular, speed test (15-30 min), scenario-based
- Linking tasks to WSOS: authenticity, relevance, and coverage
- Time and resource feasibility
- Validation process and quality assurance of TPs
- * Activity: Draft a mini Test Project for a module you teach Example: Speed test format (e.g., from Web Technologies Skill 17)

What is a Test Project?

A Test Project (TP) is:

- A realistic, hands-on task used to assess skills performance
- Based on actual workplace roles and industry practices
- Linked to a standard (WSOS, national curriculum, or occupational profile)
- A tool for assessment, learning, and feedback

Purpose of a Test Project

A good Test Project:

- Simulates authentic tasks from a profession
- Covers key skills, knowledge, and behaviours
- Offers fair, standard-based assessment opportunities
- Can be used for both competition and regular teaching



In the classroom, it becomes a **competence-oriented** learning experience

Test Project Formats

WorldSkills uses flexible formats. You can too.

- Modular each task focuses on a specific skill area
- Integrated combines multiple competencies into one product
- Speed Test short challenges assessing precision or fluency (15-30 min)
- Scenario-based simulates a client, situation, or emergency



These formats are adaptable for subjects like:

- Carpentry (e.g. building a joint)
- Hospitality (e.g. preparing a table for two dietary requirements)
- Nursing (e.g. administering basic patient care in a simulation)

Core Elements of a Test Project

Every Test Project should clearly define:

- **Context** What is the professional situation?
- (V)
- **Task** What is the student expected to do or produce?
- $\overline{\mathbb{X}}$
- Time Limit How much time is available?
- Materials & Tools What's provided and what must be used?
- **Expected Outcome** What does success look like?
- **Skills/competencies assessed** Linked to learning goals or a standard

Aligning TPs with Standards

To ensure quality, align Test Projects with one or more of the following:

- ✓ WorldSkills Occupational Standards (WSOS) or the national standards
- **✓** National Qualifications Frameworks
- ✓ Industry standards or job profiles
- **☑** Curriculum learning outcomes



This ensures the task reflects real expectations and is relevant for the learner's development.

Writing an Effective Task

Good task design includes:

- A clear goal: "Install a basic lighting circuit in a simulated home environment."
- Realistic conditions: "You are working in a customer's home with limited tools."
- Constraints: "You must follow safety rules and finish in 60 minutes."
- A tangible outcome: "The light turns on safely and cleanly."
- Avoid vague tasks. Make them purposeful and job-like.

Tips for Classroom Adaptation

VET teachers can adjust WS-style Test Projects by:

- Reducing complexity
- Breaking tasks into stages
- Providing more instructions or support
- Extending time
- Allowing team work if appropriate
- Focusing on learning process, not just the final product
 - Evensmall, adapted tasks can build real confidence and competence.

Quality Assurance in WS TPs

In WorldSkills, every Test Project is:

- Reviewed by Experts
- Validated to ensure time, tools, and safety are realistic
- Aligned with the WSOS and assessment strategy
- **☑ Piloted** or tested before use
- In VET, this can translate to:
 - Peer review by colleagues
 - Informal trials with students
 - Curriculum mapping

Create a Mini Test Project

Design a task in your subject area that includes:

- 1. Professional context (who, where, why?)
- 2. Clear task description
- 3. Tools/materials available
- 4. Time limit
- 5. Expected output
- 6. Link to a curriculum or occupational standard
- 20-30 minutes. Share your draft with a peer for feedback.

Summary

- A Test Project is a structured, realistic task that mirrors industry practice
- ✓ It can be adapted for any VET subject
- ✓ It helps assess applied competence—not just knowledge
- It must be clear, fair, and aligned with standards
- You can start small and grow your toolkit
- Next: Designing the Marking Scheme how do we assess this performance?

Designing a Marking Scheme



Objectives:

- Understand the structure and types of Marking Schemes (judgement & measurement)
- Be able to create a simplified Marking Scheme

Content:

- What is a Marking Scheme and what it includes
- Sub-criteria, Aspects, and benchmark descriptors
- Use of 0-3 scale in judgement; precision in measurement
- Consistency, reliability, and validation rules
- Activity: Create 6 aspects for a sample task using both judgement and measurement
- Tools: Blank Marking Scheme Template, Sample from WSC2024 Skill 17

What is a Marking Scheme?

A Marking Scheme is the tool used to:

- Define what is being assessed
- Assign value to each aspect of performance
- Ensure consistency among assessors
- Provide feedback to students
- **Connect the task to learning outcomes or standards**
- It transforms observation into evaluation.

Core Components of a Marking Scheme

Each WS-style Marking Scheme includes:

- Assessment Criteria broad performance areas (e.g., accuracy, safety, aesthetics)
- 2. Sub-criteria more detailed groupings within each area
- **3. Aspects** specific, assessable items
- 4. Assessment Method Measurement or Judgement
- **5. Score Scale** points or levels (e.g., 0-1, 0-3)
- **6. Benchmark Descriptors** what each score means

Assessment Methods

Measurement

Objective. Based on fact.

- Yes or No
- ☑ Dimensions, accuracy, quantity, presence
- Used when outcome is clear and binary

Example:

Is the hairdryer working properly?
Is the electrical circuit correctly wired?

Judgement

Subjective (with clear standards).

- Based on performance quality
- ✓ Scale: 0 = not achieved, 3 = excellent

Example:

How well is the wood surface finished? How creatively did the student solve the problem?

Judgement: The 0-3 Scale

WorldSkills uses a 0-3 scoring scale for Judgement:

- 0 = Below standard (unacceptable or missing)
- 1 = Acceptable (meets minimum requirements)
- 2 = Good (above expectations in some ways)
- 3 = Excellent (fully exceeds industry standard)

For each level, you must write **clear descriptors** so assessors can score consistently.

Example Aspect with Judgement Descriptors

Aspect: Customer interaction during service delivery

Criteria: Communication & Professionalism

Judgement Scale (0-3):

Score	Descriptor
0	Did not greet or explain service. No eye contact.
1	Greeted customer but lacked clarity and engagement.
2	Clear explanation, polite tone, moderate engagement.
3	Professional greeting, confident explanations, empathetic interaction.



Helps all assessors interpret and score performance the same way.

Measurement Marking Example

Aspect: The item weighs exactly 100g ±2g

Criteria: Accuracy

Max score: 1 mark

Score	Descriptor
1	Weight is within range (98-102g)
0	Outside the acceptable range



Designing a Simple Marking Scheme

Let's say you created a task:

"Prepare and serve a non-alcoholic cocktail with proper hygiene and presentation"

You could assess it like this:

Criterion	Aspect	Method	Max score
Hygiene & Safety	Hands and workstation sanitized	Measurement	1
Preparation	Ingredients correctly measured	Measurement	1
Presentation	Visual appeal of the drink	Judgement	0-3
Communication	Described the drink to the client	Judgement	0-3



Total: 8 marks

Ensuring Consistency & Fairness

To make sure your Marking Scheme works:

- ✓ Use clear, detailed descriptors
- Avoid vague or personal interpretations
- Ensure compatibility with Test Project goals
- Provide assessor training if working in a team
- Consider peer review of your Marking Scheme before use
- Consistency builds trust in your assessments.

Summary

- ✓ Marking Schemes make assessment structured, transparent, and fair
- ✓ Use Measurement when possible, Judgement when necessary
- ✓ Good descriptors = consistent results
- ▼ Teachers can adapt this model to assess skills in any VET subject
- The Marking Scheme must match both the task and the standard
- Next: Using Test Projects & Marking Schemes for Teaching, Feedback, and Motivation

How to Use TPs & Marking Schemes in Teaching & Learning

Objectives:

- Integrate WS-style assessments into curricula
- Use them to track and enhance student learning

Content:

- Classroom implementation: formative vs. summative
- Using the TP/MS to provide feedback and track progress
- Peer- and self-assessment models
- Connecting assessment with feedback, motivation, and learning pathways
- * Activity: Pilot and peer-review a WS-style mini-module in your class Deliverable: Plan to implement one WS-style assessment unit per semester

From Competition to Classroom

WorldSkills tools are not only for competitors.

They help teachers:

- Define clear performance goals
- Observe practical skills in structured ways
- Give meaningful feedback
- Track progress over time

Prepare students for real-world jobs and national assessments

Key Applications in Teaching

- Formative Assessment
 - Use parts of a Test Project to check progress
 - Apply judgement marking for peer/self-assessment
- Summative Assessment
 - Use a full TP + MS for exams or final projects
 - Provide scores and qualitative feedback
- Project-Based Learning
 - Use integrated TPs to simulate workplace tasks
 - Involve planning, execution, and reflection

Benefits for Students

- Understand what's expected at professional level
- ✓ Practice real-life tasks in a safe, structured environment
- Receive concrete feedback they can act on
- Build confidence and own their progress
- See how their skills connect to jobs and careers

Feedback = Learning

- The Marking Scheme is not just for grading it's a tool for feedback.
 - Use descriptors to explain scores
 - ✓ Focus on strengths and improvement areas
 - Ask students to reflect:
 - What went well?
 - What could be improved?
 - What will I do differently next time?
- Feedback transforms assessment into a growth experience.

Differentiating for All Learners

You can adjust WS tasks and marking for different learner levels:

- **Beginners**
 - Use simplified tasks and fewer criteria
 - Provide exemplars and support materials



Intermediate

- Introduce full Judgement scale (0-3)
- Encourage peer assessment



Advanced

- Use real client scenarios
- Integrate multiple skills in one TP
- Invite industry feedback

Promoting Self-Assessment & Ownership

Teach students to use the MS themselves:



Ask them to mark their own work



- Let them compare against rubrics
- Use their reflections to guide individual learning plans
- This builds metacognition and prepares them for lifelong learning.

Data-Driven Improvement

When using TPs & MS regularly, you generate useful data:

- Track class-wide trends
- Identify recurring gaps
- Adjust your curriculum or teaching focus
- Share examples of excellence and growth
- Assessment data becomes a tool for curriculum refinement.

Activity: Teaching Scenario Simulation

Choose a teaching situation in your subject (e.g. preparing a surface, patient intake, troubleshooting a circuit).

In small groups:

- 1. Define a small task you could use
- 2. Outline how you would assess it (MS method)
- 3. Describe how you would give feedback
- 4. Plan a follow-up activity based on student performance

Share ideas with the larger group.

Tips for Getting Started

- Start small: use one WS-style TP per unit
- Adjust the MS to your own curriculum
- Co-create rubrics with your students
- Use WS resources as a starting point (not a final product)
- Reflect and adapt: each TP improves over time

Summary

- WS tools bring structure, clarity, and purpose to VET learning
- ☑ TPs simulate real work; MS turns observation into feedback
- These tools are adaptable, scalable, and powerful
- ☑ They support student motivation, equity, and learning progress

Coming next: Assessor Competences & Ethical Considerations

Assessor Competences & Ethical Considerations

Objectives:

- Understand the personal and ethical role of the assessor
- Develop competence in collaborative, unbiased judgement

Content:

- The role of the assessor: accuracy, consistency, integrity
- Preventing bias and ensuring fairness (e.g. no compatriot marking)
- Giving feedback constructively
- Working as part of a jury



* Activity: Reflective role-play: "You be the judge"

Tool: Self-check on ethical dilemmas

The Role of the Assessor

An assessor is not just a marker.

They are a:



Professional role model



Guardian of fairness



Interpreter of standards



Coach through feedback



Reflective practitioner



Your attitude shapes the assessment experience for students.

Key Assessor Competences

WorldSkills identifies essential assessor traits:

- Technical expertise in your field
- ✓ Knowledge of assessment methods
- ✓ Ability to work in a team of assessors
- ✓ Integrity, objectivity, and fairness
- Attention to detail and consistency
- Effective communication & feedback delivery
- ✓ Willingness to reflect and improve
- Assessment is a skill in itself not just a task.

Ethical Principles in Assessment

Every assessor must ensure that assessment is:

- Confidential protect student identity and data
- Impartial no favoritism, no assumptions
- Transparent explain the criteria and process
- Inclusive fair to all backgrounds, learning needs
- Reflective open to feedback, learning, and growth
- Ask yourself: Would I feel this assessment was fair if I were the student?

Avoiding Bias in Judgement

- Common types of unconscious bias:
 - Halo effect (one good trait affects all scores)
 - Leniency/severity bias
 - Similarity bias (rewarding students who resemble us)
 - First impression bias
 - Cultural/linguistic bias
- Strategies to counter bias:
 - Use clear descriptors and marking schemes
 - Mark in teams and compare scores
 - Reflect on your own patterns

Working in Assessment Teams

In WS and in school, collaborative marking is key.

- Good team behavior includes:
 - ✓ Mutual respect
 - Calibration and score alignment
 - Open discussion of discrepancies
 - No personal judgment of others' scoring
 - ✓ Clear communication
- Assessment is more accurate when we learn from each other.

Listening & Feedback Skills

Being a good assessor = being a good listener.



Listen to:

- What students say during the task
- How they explain their process
- Their reflections afterward



Give feedback that is:

- Specific
- Constructive
- Balanced
- Actionable



Feedback should inspire improvement, not fear.

Student-Centered Assessment

As an assessor, always keep the student at heart.

- See assessment as part of the learning process
- Understand that students may feel anxious or unsure
- Create a respectful, safe space
- Recognize effort, not just perfection
- ✓ Use mistakes as teachable moments
- You are not only assessing work you are shaping confidence.

Activity: Assessor Reflection



Individual reflection + small group sharing

- 1. What are your current strengths as an assessor?
- 2. What challenges do you face when marking or giving feedback?
- 3. How do you ensure fairness and objectivity?
- 4. What's one thing you want to improve in your assessment practice?

Optional: Create a personal "Assessor Growth Plan"

The WorldSkills Spirit

A WorldSkills assessor (and VET teacher):

- Believes in every learner's potential
- Respects excellence and effort equally
- Is open to learning and feedback
- Brings fairness, empathy, and clarity
- Helps learners grow through assessment
- Be the kind of assessor you'd want your own child to meet.

Summary

- Assessment is a professional and ethical responsibility
- ☑ Great assessors are consistent, fair, and reflective
- ☑ Ethical behavior builds student trust and confidence
- ☑ Collaborative marking and feedback improve quality

Coming next: Practice Lab - Design, Assess & Reflect

Practice Lab: Create, Mark & Reflect

Objectives:

- ◆ Complete a full cycle: TP design → MS design → Simulated assessment
 - → Reflection

Content:

- Teams of teachers develop a TP and MS from scratch
- Role-play as assessors
- Compare scores and discuss discrepancies
- Plan classroom implementation
- Outcome: Each participant leaves with one complete mini-Test Project & Marking Scheme adapted to their subject

Overview of the Lab

- The lab includes 3 main phases:
- 1. Design Build a mini Test Project and Marking Scheme
- 2. Assess Role-play assessing one another
- 3. Reflect Share observations, feedback, and lessons learned
- Goal: Produce a ready-to-use learning/assessment activity for your subject

Step 1: Design Your Mini Test Project

Use the provided template or whiteboard

- 1. Define the professional context
- 2. Write the task description
- 3. List materials/tools required
- 4. Set time constraints
- 5. Define expected results
- 6. Link to curriculum or occupational standards
- Keep it realistic, focused, and feasible (30-90 min task)

Step 2: Build the Marking Scheme

For the task you created, now build a basic Marking Scheme:

Criterion	Aspect	Method	Max score
Hygiene & Safety	Hands and workstation sanitized	Measurement	1
Preparation	Ingredients correctly measured	Measurement	1
Presentation	Visual appeal of the drink	Judgement	0-3
Communication	Described the drink to the client	Judgement	0-3

✓ Include descriptors for at least 2 Judgement aspects

Step 3: Simulate the Assessment

- Pair up or form small groups
- One person plays the learner, the others act as assessors
- Observe the task and use the MS to score
- Share feedback as you would in a real setting

Switch roles and repeat!



Step 4: Reflect and Discuss

As a group, discuss:

- Was the task clear and realistic?
- Did the Marking Scheme work as intended?
- Was the feedback specific and actionable?
- What would you improve next time?
- How could this work in your classroom?
- Capture key takeaways on a shared board or poster

Output of the Practice Lab

By the end of this lab, each participant should have:

- ✓ 1 Mini Test Project
- ✓ 1 Marking Scheme (measurement + judgement)
- Feedback experience (giving & receiving)
- ✓ Reflection insights
- Action points for classroom use
- You're building a toolkit you can actually use.

Follow-Up Ideas

After this module, consider:

- Implementing your TP in class and collecting student feedback
- Collaborating with colleagues to design cross-disciplinary TPs
- Using the same MS for peer/self-assessment
- Piloting a mini-competition in your school or region
- Joining a community of practice around WS-inspired teaching

Summary

- ✓ You've experienced the full cycle: Design
 Assess Reflect
- ✓ You now have the tools to implement WS methods in real teaching
- ✓ Small steps = big impact when applied with purpose
- Next: Wrap-Up, Resources & Action Planning

Wrap-Up and Action Plan

Objectives:

- Consolidate learning
- Set plans for classroom integration

Content:

- Summary of key learning
- Peer exchange of lesson ideas
- Commitment to action
- Deliverable: Individual Integration Plan + Feedback Form Optional: WorldSkills teaching pack or badge

Quick Recap of Module 4

- You've explored:
 - 1. The WorldSkills assessment ecosystem
 - 2. How to design Test Projects
 - 3. How to build effective Marking Schemes
 - 4. How to use TPs & MS in VET teaching
 - 5. Assessor roles and ethics
 - 6. How to simulate and reflect on assessment
- From theory to practice step by step

Knowledge & Skills Checklist

- ✓ I understand what a Test Project is
- ✓ I can write a realistic task scenario
- ✓ I know how to align tasks with standards
- ✓ I can build a simple Marking Scheme using Judgement and Measurement
- I can give clear and constructive feedback
- ✓ I recognize and apply ethical principles of assessment
- I feel confident applying WS methods in my subject area
- Check what you've mastered and what to keep practicing

Group Reflection

- Discuss with your group:
 - What part of Module 4 was most useful for your practice?
 - What challenges do you anticipate when applying this in your school?
 - How can you support each other in trying these methods?
 - What could your next small step look like?
- E Collect and share group insights on a common board or flipchart

Action Plan Template



Complete your personal plan:

My subject / course:

WS-style assessment I want to try:

When and where I'll implement it:

Materials I need:

Who I'll share it with / get feedback from:

How I'll know it worked (indicators):



Commit to action — even small changes make a big difference.

Peer Exchange: Good Practice Wall

- Share one successful idea or insight:
 - A great task design
 - A powerful way to give feedback
 - An aha! moment from the practice lab
 - A student reaction you'll never forget
 - A new approach you want to try
- Option: Take photos of your "Good Practice Wall" to use back in your school

Connecting to a Wider Community



You are not alone.



- C- Ideas to stay connected:

- Share your TP & MS with other teachers
- Organize a local or school-level skills challenge
- Join online communities related to your skill or teaching area
- Follow WorldSkills updates and events
- Contribute to future modules or training sessions



Teaching is a craft we build together.

Final Thoughts



Teaching is a powerful way to shape lives.



Assessment, done well, empowers learning and growth.



WS methods help bring real-world standards into the classroom.



You now have the tools to begin — start small, but start!



Thank you for your engagement. Keep exploring. Keep innovating. Keep believing in your students.